

Public Sector

S A F E T Y R E P O R T

Public Sector enforcement activity July through September 2001

- During this period, Public Sector Enforcement assessed \$77,835 in penalties, much of which was withdrawn to be used for correction of violations.
- Most frequent violations:
 - Personal protective equipment (PPE) not used when necessary and not maintained properly. 29 CFR 1910.132(a)
 - Employer did not assess the workplace to determine potential hazards and what personal protective equipment (PPE) should be worn. 29 CFR 1910.132(d)
 - Employer did not develop a written respiratory protection program specific to the jobsite. 29 CFR 1910.134(c)
 - Respirator fit testing was not conducted. 29 CFR 1910.134(f)(2)
 - Employer did not have a lockout/tagout policy prior to cleaning equipment. 29 CFR 1910.147(c)(1)

Handling mail

Many public sector jobs involve handling mail. The following questions and answers are from the Maine State Government Bio-terrorism Fact Sheet. For more information, go to the State of Maine website at www.state.me.us (click on 'America United') or the OSHA website at www.osha.gov.

What makes a package suspicious?

- Generally, a suspicious package or piece of mail contains at least one of the following:
 - Unexpected dusts, powders, stains, discolorations, residues, liquids, solid materials, and/or foreign objects;
 - An unusual odor or smell (do not intentionally sniff packages); or
 - A threat or an implied threat.
- Suspicious packages may also have:
 - No return address;
 - The name of someone no longer at that address;
 - Evidence of being disturbed;
 - An unusual shape or weight;
 - Been marked at "Personal" or "Confidential;" or
 - A postmark that does not match the return address.

What should you do if you encounter a suspicious package?

- Stop handling the package; do NOT sniff the package;
- Place the package in a container or place a waste container over it;
- Exit the immediate area and ask others to do the same;
- Wash your hands and other areas of exposed skin vigorously with soap and water;
- Call 911.

Key Maine contacts regarding bio-terrorism

- Department of Human Services, Bureau of Health: 287-3270
- Department of Defense, Veterans and Emergency Management: 1-800-452-8735
- Department of Public Safety, State Police Headquarters: 624-7000/1-800-452-4664 (TTY: 287-4478)
- 24-Hour Telephone Public Health Emergency Reporting and Consultation Line: 800 821-5821

Regulations and compliance assistance for Maine public sector workplaces can be found on the internet at <http://www.state.me.us/labor/bls/newpsw.htm>

The Maine Department of Labor provides equal opportunity in employment and programs. Auxiliary aids and services provided upon request.

Return Service Requested

MAINE
DEPARTMENT OF
LABOR
Public Sector Enforcement

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Fall 2001

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The Public Sector Safety Report is issued quarterly to inform public sector employers and employees of safety and health enforcement issues. Published by the Maine Department of Labor, the compliance and enforcement agency for occupational safety and health regulations for public sector workplaces in Maine.

Please post this Report to share the information with employees.

To be added to the mailing list, or to make address corrections, send information to *Public Sector Safety Report*, MDOL, 45 State House Station, Augusta, ME 04333-0045, fax to (207) 624-6449 or e-mail at webmaster_bls@state.me.us. TTY 1-800-794-1110.